(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The funds allocated during the last three years for National Highways in Gujarat are as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Plan work	37.38	43.22	66.29
Maintenance and repair	27.32	37.57	32.97

Impact of East-West Corridor on Railways Growth

2101. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money spent on the East-West Corridor in this current finanical year;

(b) the detials of money proposed to be spent during 2000-2001 on this project; and

(c) whether this project hampers railways growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) An amount of Rs. 26 crores has been spent till January, 2000 during the current financial year.

(b) Budget provision for the year 2000-2001 is Rs. 175 crores for project on East-West corridor.

(c) No, Sir.

Private Ports Operating in the Country

2102. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private ports which have come up and opened, in the country;

(b) the number of ports which are in pipe line; and

(c) the present status of these ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) As far as Central Government is concerned, there are no private ports within the limits of Major Ports. As regards Minor Ports are concerned, they are under the administrative control of concerned maritime State Governments.

Construction of Bridge over Brahmaputra

2103. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for construction of another bridge across the Brahmapurta linking Guwahati and North Guwahati was received;

(b) if so, the details of action plan finalized to implement the same; and

(c) the implementation status of the proposal for NH bypass North Lakhimpur (NH52), by-pass at Tinsukia (NH37), declaring Stillwell Road (Beyond NH 38) and connecting road between NH 37 and NH 39 across Golaghat town as National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Land acquisition provision of Rs. 1.50 crore and Rs. 2.75 crore is available in the Annual Plan 1999-2000 for by-passes at North Lakhimpur and Tinsukia respectively. Detailed estimates for both the by-passes have not been received in the Ministry from the Assam PWD so far. Due to fianancial constraints no new National Highway is contemplated at present.

Express Highway connectivity in NE Region

2104. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects, total outlay, allocation and achievements made to provide regional and national express highway connectivity in the North-Eastern region; and